



CIA/RR CB 66-4  
February 1966

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## INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

FOREIGN SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM  
IN JANUARY 1966

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE  
Office of Research and Reports

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FOREWORD

The data in this brief are preliminary and subject to modification in subsequent publications as additional information becomes available. Significant changes may occur in data on ship arrivals and cargoes from Communist China and, to a lesser extent, in data on cargoes carried by ships of the Free World. Data on Soviet and Eastern European ship arrivals and cargoes and on Free World ship arrivals are not likely to be changed significantly.

FOREIGN SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM  
IN JANUARY 1966\*

Summary

The January total of 46 calls by foreign ships at North Vietnamese ports represents the largest number of such arrivals since May 1965. More than half of these ships were of Soviet or Chinese Communist registry. The arrivals in January exceeded those in December because of an increase in calls by Free World shipping, as shown in the following tabulation:

	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Monthly Average 1965</u>
Total	<u>41</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>44</u>
Communist countries	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>23</u>
USSR	10	9	7
Eastern Europe	4	4	4
Communist China	14	14	12
Cuba	0	1	Negl.
Free World	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>
United Kingdom	10	13	11
Other	3	5	10

One-half of North Vietnam's identified sea-borne imports were carried aboard Soviet ships. Cargoes delivered included petroleum, fertilizer, coal, foodstuffs, and high-grade general cargoes. No seaborne imports were identified as arms or ammunition.

\* The estimates and conclusions in this brief represent the best judgment of this Office as of 15 February 1966. For details on ship arrivals and the type and distribution of cargoes, see Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Although exports of coal continued at a high level, there were no shipments of such traditional commodities as apatite, cement, or pig iron. Moreover, miscellaneous general cargoes were less than one-tenth the average monthly volume for 1965.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

1. Free World Shipping

Eighteen Free World ships arrived at North Vietnamese ports in January, the highest number since July 1965, but below the monthly average of 21 in 1965.

British ships continued to predominate, accounting for 13 of the Free World arrivals. In addition, Greece was represented by three arrivals and Italy and Cyprus by one each. The Italian ship, the Garibaldi, which called at Port Campha to load coal, was the first ship of that flag to call at North Vietnam since February 1965. (The owner of the ship has several ships in the Cuban trade.) Sixteen of the Free World ships were under charter to Communist countries -- 13 to Communist China, two to North Vietnam, and one to Communist China with a subcharter to North Vietnam. All but one of the British ships were owned by Hong Kong firms.

Of the 18 Free World ships, four brought in coal and one bulk foodstuffs from Communist China, two carried fertilizer from Belgium and Japan, and the remaining 11 came in ballast. Of the 13 Free World ships that sailed, 12 carried coal to China.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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## 2. Communist Shipping

The number of ship arrivals from Communist countries in January -- 28 -- was the same as in December but considerably higher than the monthly average of 23 in 1965.

Soviet ships accounted for 20 percent of the total number and 29 percent of the total gross tonnage in January. Of the Soviet ships that arrived, seven were dry cargo ships and two were tankers. Seven of the voyages originated in Black Sea ports, one in Singapore, and one in Tonda, Japan. All of the ships carried cargo to North Vietnam, but only one outward-bound Soviet ship carried export cargo -- coal for Japan.

25X1C In addition to the customary imports of petroleum, fertilizer, and foodstuffs, Soviet ships carried 13,500 tons\* of miscellaneous general cargo -- well below the December level of 19,300 tons (a monthly high for 1965) but considerably above the monthly average of 1965 of 9,700 tons. Four of the seven Soviet dry cargo ships carried vehicles, and two carried railroad rails and rail joints. Other cargo included tractors, excavators, bulldozers, ambulances, tires, pontoons, and a pile driver.

\* All data on cargo carried are given in metric tons.

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Three of the four Polish ships that called at North Vietnam in January brought in cargoes; the other arrived in ballast to load coal for Japan. No Polish ships were used to carry coal from North Vietnam in 1965. Two of the Polish ships that arrived in January belong to CHIPOLBROK, the Chinese-Polish Ocean Shipping Co., and the other two ships are engaged in the liner service of the Polish Ocean Shipping Co.

In a rare visit by a Cuban ship, the Aracelio Iglesias called at North Vietnam in January. The last previous Cuban ship to call at North Vietnam -- the only one in 1965 -- arrived in November. The Aracelio Iglesias delivered a cargo of steel and activated carbon from Communist China and loaded coal for Cuba. This ship aroused considerable interest around the world when the master and several members of the crew jumped ship in Japan because they had heard that the ship was to carry arms from Communist China to North Vietnam. The use of Cuban ships for this purpose seems improbable.

Eleven of the 14 Chinese Communist ships that arrived in January called at Haiphong and presumably discharged cargoes there. Only two incoming cargoes were identified -- 200 tons of rice and 311 tons of miscellaneous general cargo. Two Chinese Communist ships called only at the coal ports and loaded coal. One ship called at Haiphong but then went to Campha to load coal.



### 3. Cargoes

Identified seaborne trade in January totaled 205,400 tons, a volume slightly below the December level but slightly above the average monthly volume for 1965. Except for 620 tons of miscellaneous cargoes, the only exports were coal. There were no exports of apatite, cement, or pig iron. This is the first month since January 1965 that there were no identified exports of any of these three important export commodities. The export of 620 tons of miscellaneous cargo is far below the average of 9,300 tons of such exports in 1965. The miscellaneous export cargoes in January were carried on two Polish and one Cuban ship. January is the second successive month in which exports of miscellaneous general cargoes have dropped precipitously, as shown in the following tabulation:

	<u>Tons</u>
November	8,060
December	1,960
January	620

The reasons for North Vietnam's unusually poor export performance in January are not apparent. One Soviet ship that was expected to load apatite did not do so even though the bomb-damaged rail line from the apatite mines was reopened in December.

Coal exports were slightly above the December level and well above the average monthly volume for 1965. Of the coal shipped in January, 59,400 tons went to Communist China. Exports to Japan, which are paid for in hard currency, continued to be depressed and fell to 14,500 tons. This figure is far below the average of 36,500 tons shipped to Japan in 1965. In addition to the shipments to Communist China and Japan, single shipments of coal also went to Cuba, Italy, and France.

Identified seaborne imports of 91,100 tons -- half of which were carried by Soviet ships -- were slightly less than those of December but well above the average monthly volume for 1965. The nature of the cargoes aboard the Chinese Communist ships was identified on only two of the 14 arrivals. No seaborne shipments to North Vietnam in January were identified as arms or ammunition.

Table 1

Foreign-Flag Ship Arrivals in North Vietnam a/  
1965 and January 1966

Flag	1965						January 1966
	December			Cumulative			
	Num- ber	Percent of Total	Monthly Average	Num- ber	Percent of Total	Num- ber	Percent of Total
Total	<u>41</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>529</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Communist countries	<u>28</u>	<u>68.3</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>51.6</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>60.9</u>
USSR	10	24.4	7	79	14.9	9	19.6
Eastern Europe	4	9.8	4	50	9.5	4	8.7
Albania			Negl.	1	0.2		
Bulgaria	1	2.4	Negl.	5	0.9		
Czechoslovakia			Negl.	4	0.8		
Poland	3	7.3	3	40	7.6	4	8.7
Communist China	14	34.1	12	143	27.0	14	30.4
Cuba			Negl.	1	0.2	1	2.2
Free World	<u>13</u>	<u>31.7</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>48.4</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>39.1</u>
Cyprus	1	2.4	Negl.	3	0.6	1	2.2
France			Negl.	2	0.4		
Greece	2	4.9	2	28	5.3	3	6.5
Italy			Negl.	1	0.2	1	2.2
Japan			3	37	7.0		
Lebanon			1	9	1.7		
Liberia			Negl.	3	0.6		
Malta			Negl.	2	0.4		
Netherlands			Negl.	5	0.9		
Norway			2	29	5.5		
Panama			Negl.	1	0.2		
United Kingdom	10	24.4	11	136	25.7	13	28.3

a. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

S-E-C-R-E-T

Table 2

Tonnage of Foreign-Flag Ship Arrivals in North Vietnam a/  
December 1965, January 1966, and Monthly Average 1965

Flag	December 1965		January 1966		Monthly Average 1965	
	Number	Thousand Gross Register Tons	Number	Thousand Gross Register Tons	Number	Thousand Gross Register Tons
Total	<u>41</u>	<u>232.8</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>263.7</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>222.1</u>
Communist countries	<u>28</u>	<u>153.1</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>170.1</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>117.9</u>
USSR	10	70.8	9	75.8	7	44.0
Eastern Europe	4	25.8	4	33.7	4	28.8
Communist China	14	56.4	14	50.9	12	44.3
Cuba			1	9.7	Negl.	0.8
Free World	<u>13</u>	<u>79.7</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>93.6</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>104.2</u>

a. Many Soviet and Eastern European ships calling at North Vietnamese ports pick up or discharge only small parts of their total cargoes in North Vietnam, and many of the Free World ships only pick up export cargoes. For this reason, with the possible exception of Chinese Communist ships, aggregate tonnage of ships calling is not closely correlative to actual volume of cargoes moving into and out of North Vietnam, but these data are of value as indications of relative changes in the volume of shipping. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

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Table 3

Identified North Vietnamese Imports Carried by Foreign-Flag Ships a/  
January 1966

Flag	Commodity						Thousand Metric Tons
	Ammonium Sulfate and Other Fertilizers	Petroleum	Grain and Other Foodstuffs	Pyrites	Timber	Miscellaneous	Total
Total	<u>32.0</u>	<u>21.5</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34.7</u>	<u>91.1</u>
Communist countries	<u>14.1</u>	<u>21.5</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21.2</u>	<u>58.0</u>
USSR	9.1	21.5	1.0			13.5	45.1
Eastern Europe	5.0	Negl.				3.4	8.4
Communist China <u>b/</u>			0.2			0.3	0.5
Cuba						4.0	4.0
Free World	<u>18.0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13.5</u>	<u>33.0</u>

a. Identified imports include some estimates of bulk cargoes, using methods which have proved to be highly reliable. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

b. An additional unknown quantity of imports was carried by Chinese Communist ships.

Table 4

Identified North Vietnamese Exports  
Carried by Foreign-Flag Ships a/  
January 1966

Thousand Metric Tons						
Flag	Commodity					Total
	Coal	Apatite	Cement	Pig Iron	Miscel- laneous	
Total	<u>113.7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>114.3</u>
Communist countries	<u>44.3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.6</u>	<u>44.9</u>
USSR	4.0					4.0
Eastern Europe	19.5				0.4	19.9
Communist China <u>b/</u>	12.0					12.0
Cuba	8.8				0.2	9.0
Free World	<u>69.4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>69.4</u>

a. Identified exports include some estimates of bulk cargoes, using methods which have proved to be highly reliable. Because of rounding, components may not add to the totals shown.

b. An additional unknown quantity of exports was carried by Chinese Communist ships.

Analysts:



Coord:

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3 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch, DD/CR  
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9	Defense Intelligence Agency DIASA 2C, Room 2D233, Pentagon Attn: [REDACTED] Chief, Far East/Asia Task Force Room 1C930, Pentagon

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Date: *4 Mar. 66*

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

3 MAR 1966


MEMORANDUM FOR: (List of Addressees attached)

SUBJECT : Foreign Shipping to North Vietnam  
in January 1966

1. The attached report is the latest in our monthly series on foreign shipping to North Vietnam.

2. There were 46 calls by foreign ships at North Vietnamese ports in January 1966, the largest number since May 1965. The increase in calls over December was entirely accounted for by Free World ships.



3. Identified cargoes delivered by Soviet ships included petroleum, fertilizer, foodstuffs and general cargo. Only two of 14 incoming Chinese cargoes were identified. Except for 620 tons of miscellaneous cargoes, coal was the only identified export. No seaborne shipments of arms or ammunition were detected.

  
WILLIAM N. MORELL, JR.  
Director  
Research and Reports

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Attachment:  
CIA/RR CB 66-4 (Subject Report)

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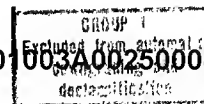
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